Organization & Function of Marine Aviation

1b. Relate functions to the organizational structure of Marine aviation.

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies

- Purpose: To identify the Marine Air Command Control System agencies resident within the Aviation Combat Element of the Marine Air/Ground Task Force
- Marine Air Command Control System provides the Aviation Combat Element Commander with the means to command, coordinate and control air operations

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies consist of the following:

- Tactical Air Command Center (TACC)
  - Senior Marine Air Command Control System agency
  - Focal point for aviation command and control

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies

- Tactical Air Direction Center (TADC)
  - Capabilities mirror the Tactical Air Command Center
  - Established during amphibious operations

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies

- Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC)
  - Performs surveillance and detects, identifies and directs the destruction of enemy aircraft and missiles
  - Primary Antiair Warfare agency within the Marine Air Command Control System

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies

- Direct Air Support Center
  - Conducts direct air support operations
  - Coordinates execution of and response to requests for preplanned and immediate close air support, assault support and certain air reconnaissance missions

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies

- Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron Detachments
  - Provides all-weather air traffic control services to forward operating bases
  - Task organized to fit mission requirements

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies

- Helicopter Direction Center
  - Agency within the Navy tactical air control center (afloat)
  - Controls helicopterborne ship-to-shore movement during amphibious operations

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies

- Terminal Control Agencies
  - Manage final delivery of ordnance, cargo or personnel
  - Perform specialized tasks not performed by other air control agencies

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies

- Types of Terminal Control Agencies include:
  - Tactical Air Control Party
  - Forward Air Controller
  - Forward Air Controller (Airborne)
  - Tactical Air Coordinator (Airborne)
  - Helicopter Coordinator (Airborne)
  - Helicopter Support Team
  - Air Support Radar Team (ASRT)

Organizational Structure

- Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW)
  - Highest tactical aviation command level in the Fleet Marine Force
  - Compares to Marine division in command responsibility

Organizational Structure

- Groups
  - Marine Air Control Group (MACG)
    - Each Marine Aircraft Wing contains one Marine Air Control Group
    - Provides, operates and maintains the Marine Command Control System

Organizational Structure

- Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG)
  - Each Marine Aircraft wing contains one Marine Wing Support Group with four subordinate squadrons
  - Provides the Aviation Combat Element with essential Aviation Ground Support (AGS)

Organizational Structure

- Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)
  - Smallest aviation organization capable of independent operations with no aid (except supply)
  - Structured by aircraft class as either helicopter (rotary wing) or fixed wing

Organizational Structure

- Squadrons and Battalions
  - Support Squadrons
    - Provide administrative and support functions to the Marine Aircraft Wing
    - Resident within each Group
  - Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron (MWHS)
    - Provides personnel and facilities to the Marine Aircraft Wing Commanding General
    - Provides command and administration capabilities to the Marine Aircraft Wing

Organizational Structure

- Marine Wing Communications Squadron (MWCS)
  - Installs and maintains tactical communications equipment and facilities
  - Provides communications for the Aviation Combat Element (ACE) of the Marine Air/Ground Task Force
- Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS)
  - Fixed wing squadron supports fixed wing operations
  - Rotary wing squadron supports helicopter operations

Organizational Structure

- Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS)
  - Provides aviation logistical support to the Marine Aircraft Wing
  - Provides intermediate maintenance on all aircraft and aeronautical equipment assigned to the Marine Aircraft Wing

Organizational Structure

- Control Squadrons
  - Provides equipment, personnel and facilities to control aircraft and missiles
  - Includes the following squadrons:
    - » Marine Air Control Squadron (MACS)
    - » Marine Air Support Squadron (MASS)
    - » Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron (MATCS)

Organizational Structure

- Aircraft Squadrons
  - Marine Fighter/Attack (VMFA) Squadron
    - » Performs aircraft interception, offensive air support and escort duties
    - » Intercepts and destroys enemy aircraft under all weather conditions and attacks and destroys surface targets

Organizational Structure

- Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron (All Weather) VMFA(AW)
  - » Provides offensive air support, aircraft interception, air reconnaissance and airborne supporting arms coordination
  - » Attacks and destroys surface targets, day or night, under the weather; conducts multisensor imagery reconnaissance; provides supporting arms coordination; and intercept and destroy enemy aircraft under all weather conditions

Organizational Structure

- Marine Attack (VMA) Squadron
  - » Primary mission is offensive air support (close air support)
  - » Attacks and destroys surface targets under day/night visual meteorological conditions

Organizational Structure

- Marine Tactical/Electronic Warfare (VMAQ) Squadron
  - » Conducts airborne electronic warfare
  - » Detects and suppresses enemy electronic warning, acquisition, weapons systems and communications

Organizational Structure

- Marine Aerial Refueler/Transport (VMGR) Squadron
  - » Provides aerial/ground refueling and assault support
  - » Transports personnel, equipment and supplies

Organizational Structure

- Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (VMU) Squadron
  - » Provides safe unmanned reconnaissance
  - » Limited by meteorological conditions

Organizational Structure

- Marine Light/Attack Helicopter (HML/A) Squadron
  - » Provides combat utility helicopter support, attack helicopter fire support and fire support coordination during amphibious operations and subsequent operations ashore
  - » Operates as entire squadron, or as detachments

Organizational Structure

- Marine Medium Helicopter (HMM) Squadron
  - » Provides assault transport of combat troops as primary function
  - » Provides vertical transport of supplies and equipment as secondary mission

Organizational Structure

- Marine Heavy Helicopter (HMH) Squadron
  - » Provides assault helicopter transport of heavy weapons, equipment and supplies as primary mission
  - » Conducts tactical retrieval and recovery operations for downed pilots, aircraft and equipment

Organizational Structure

- Air Defense Battalion
  - Light Antiaircraft Missile (LAAM) Battalion
  - Assigned to each Marine Aircraft Wing
- Unique Aviation Units
  - Marine Aviation Reserves
  - Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1)
  - Marine Wing Weapons Unit (MWWU)

Organizational Structure

- Aviation Related Units
  - Force Imagery Interpretation Unit (FIIU)
  - Special Security Communications Team (SSCT)

- APPLICATION: Interspersed throughout the entire lesson.
- EVALUATION: Written test at the end of the unit.